(c) whether any new initiatives have been taken towards the growth and production of synthetic fibre; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what are the details of the new grass-root units recommended by the Expert Committee constituted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) to (d) The Liberalised Licensing Policy for Synthetic Fibre would enable the existing synthetic fibre units with sub-optimal capacities to expand to a viable size.

Approvals for new grass-root plants are considered on merits on the basis of minimum capacity.

In addition, Broad-Banding is permitted in Synthetic Fibre Yarn industry with a view to have certain flexibility to respond to the emerging market trends.

Thermal power plants for Kerala

983. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala Government has demanded the setting up of three thermal power plants in the State; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b) A proposal was received in July, 1987 from the Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) for setting up a 100 MW power station with diesel generating sets at Cochin. The proposal can be taken up for techno-economic appraisal after all necessary clearances and inputs, such as those relating to availability of fuel oil on a sustained basis and environmental clearance, have been tied up by the KSEB.

The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has submitted to the K.S.E.B., as their consultant, a project Report for setting up a thermal power station (2X210 MW) in Kerala in the State sector. The Report is under consideration of the State Government and the K.S.E.B.

Foreign collaboration for the Bakreshwar thermal power plant

984. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the West Bengal Government has forwarded to the Centre the bids by two prospective foreign collaborators for the proposed Bakreshwar thermal power plant;

(b) if so, whether any decision has since been taken thereon; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) to (c) For the Bakreshwar Thermal Power Project, which is a State Plan scheme, two unsolicited offers were received by the State Government and were forwarded to the Government of India for consideration. These offers were submitted by a Consortium led by M/s. Technopromexport (USSR) and by a Consortium comprising M/s. C. Itoh & Co., Japan and M/s. Kuljian Corporation, USA. The offers were subsequently modified by the two Consortia. The acceptability of the offers has not yet been decided.

Hazira petro-chemical complex

985. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Gujarat's application for a petro-chemical complex near Hazira is pending clearance by Central Government; if so, what are the impediments in clearing the project;